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SECRET OF A NATION'S PROSPERITY

Sermon of Rev. Henry A. Sawyer, Oregon, Missouri, Sabbath morning, December 6th, 1896.

Text, 2 Chronicles, 15-2. The Lord is with you, while ye be with him and if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. Thus spake the Prophet Azariah to Asa, King of Judah. The scriptures introduce us to this king in the following manner: "He did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord his God." The result of this was that peace and prosperity reigned with that people for years. The King as representative of the people, appealed upon the Lord when on one occasion, a foreign nation brought a great army against them saying: "In thy name do ye go and on this we do not rest. Help us for thy sake." Most gloriously was their petition answered. After the victory was achieved and the war ended God sent the message from the King and his people to the fact that Israel for a long time had been without the true God and without law, and as a result, had been most terribly afflicted by war, pestilence and famine. When they turned in penitence to God he heard and blessed them and when they forsake him adversity came to them. As long as King Asa and his people observed the instruction of this text, the highest prosperity attended them, but by and by, when a foreign foe made war upon them instead of trusting in the Lord as formerly they formed an alliance with a heathen nation. As a matter of fact, this brought calamity upon the nation. It caused the administration of a great ruler to end amidst clouds and disaster.

Such was the word of the Lord with his lessons some 500 years before the birth of Christ. Has he thus dealt with people and nations since that time and is the same declaration of his applicable today to us as individuals and as a nation? Is it still the case that "The Lord is with you, while ye be with him, and if ye forsake him he will forsake you?"

As a nation is true to God or untrue so it is blessed or cursed—visited with prosperity or filled with calamity. Pere Hyacinthe, the great French philosopher, in "The Christian at Work," speaks of this as follows: "Do you know why Prussia triumphed in the field of battle with Austria? It was not because there was a lack of bravery on either side, nor was it the effect of that wondrous weapon for the acquisition of which men are now so eager. But it was because the assailed was better educated than the assailed and had a superior religious training. It was because every Prussian soldier had a Bible in his cap or helmet. In other places I have asserted, and I assert here again, that that which constitutes the strength of the Protestant nation is that when the people come home from their work they enter the family circle and sitting by their hearths, read the Bible and their national poetry. We of France are behindhand with Protestant nations, and especially those who dwell beyond the Atlantic and the Straits of Dover. Twice have I trodden English soil; and I have come to the conviction that the strength of that country is from the Bible."

We are living in wonderful times. The world is rapidly coming more and more under the influence of God and his truth. The English speaking race, which is a Protestant, because a Bible reading race, has increased from twenty two millions one hundred years ago, to one hundred and twenty millions at the present time. It has become the dominant race of the globe, and is carrying the influence of Christ with it to the islands of the sea, and the ends of the earth. The Christian population of the earth is increasing, proportionately twice as fast as the heathen population. We are to rejoice because of this, but we should not allow such a fact to blind our eyes to the dangers and needs of our own land. We have a land beautiful and unequalled for situation and the glory of all who love Christian liberty but it is free from enemies? Can those who love and enjoy its freedom fold their arms and feel that all is safe? Are all of our people God fearing, Sabbath observing, law-abiding, church going people?

From its beginning this nation has been the home of the oppressed, the haven of religious liberty, born and nurtured by the prayers of God and the shores of New England, on across the continent, the Bible and church spirit have marked the progress of civilization. Engrafted into the organic laws of state and nation from the beginning the true God and his Bible have been recognized as the foundation of all, to which we are all amenable. As a result prosperity such as the world never before saw has rested upon this land. Step by step this nation has been rising to an elevation which no nation ever before attained. The eyes of the world have been watching this giant republic of the West. Her harvests are feeding the world. The treasures dug from her hills and mountains are driving the commerce of civilization. Her inventive genius linked with her manufactures is changing the avocations of mankind and turning the world upside down. Her steeds of fire cross and recross the continent in every direction and her ships sail on every ocean. With the electric wire to carry her messages, her people hold converse with each other from far distant cities, even encircling the globe.

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This is the only remedy that is known to be a certain preventive of pneumonia. Among the many thousands who have used it for colds and grippe, we have never yet learned of a single case having resulted in pneumonia. Persons who have weak lungs or have reason to fear an attack of pneumonia, should keep the remedy at hand. The 25 and 50 cent sizes for sale by C. K. Proud.

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